MAR 1 2 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE IMMERSION CLASSES IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, Hawaii is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural society that blends diverse food, customs, and languages; and

WHEREAS, this melting pot has yet to extend to foreign language education in the State's public elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, although foreign languages are offered in the State's public high schools, there are several benefits to teaching children a foreign language beginning in kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, research has shown a positive correlation between the study of a foreign language and increased cognitive and academic ability, leading to improved student performance indicators; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, that the Department of Education is requested to support the creation of foreign language immersion classes in public elementary schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and Chairperson of the Board of Education.

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